

Smart-tech future beckons from CES

Connected devices promise great value, are talk of industry

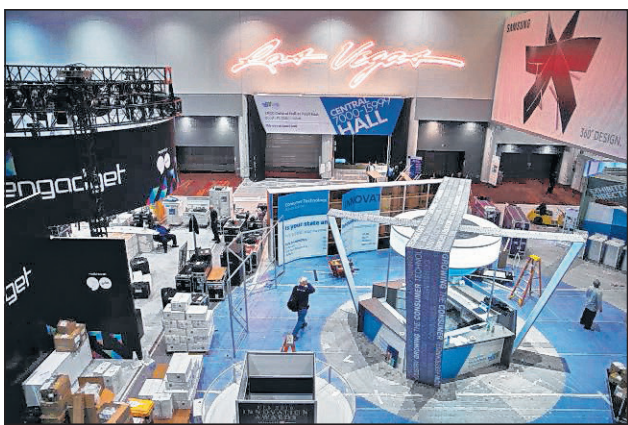
By RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Look around. How many computing devices do you see? Your phone, probably; maybe a tablet or a laptop. Your car, the TV set, the microwave, bedside alarm clock, possibly the thermostat, and others you've never noticed.

Much of that computing isn't doing much while segregated into individual devices. But many of these gadgets have the potential to get smarter by connecting to their fellows, which in turn could open the door to a brave new "Internet of Things."

To see where that might be taking us, there's no better place than the annual gadget extravaganza formerly known as the Consumer Electronics Show — and now simply as CES.

The show, which starts Wednesday in Las Vegas, is the place for companies large and small to show off new connected devices. These range from the seemingly trivial — for instance, smart umbrellas that message you if you leave them behind — to the undeniably helpful, such as navigation devices that display driving directions onto your windshield so you don't have to



JOHN LOCHER/Associated Press

People work on booths in preparation for the International CES gadget show Sunday in Las Vegas. The show officially kicks off Wednesday.

take your eyes off the road.

And while traditional consumer electronics such as phones and TVs account for about half of revenue in U.S. consumer tech, they aren't growing as quickly as newer connected devices, according to the Consumer Technology Association, the organizer of CES. For instance, smart home devices, such as cameras, thermostats and locks, are expected to grow 21 percent to 8.9 million units in 2016, or \$1.2 billion in revenue.

According to the McKinsey Global Institute, a division of the consulting giant McKinsey & Co., the value created by connecting the world's devices could hit \$11 trillion annually by 2025, a mind-boggling sum that represents over half of U.S. economic output in a year.

Most of the value comes from industrial uses — like cleaner air from smarter energy use and fewer factory shut-downs due to smarter maintenance. But trillions in benefits are expected to come from consumer-bought products: safer streets because of better-driving cars, robots that take care of household chores and health and fitness trackers that let us know when our bodies need medical attention.

"There's a big value in avoiding pain and suffering," says report co-author Michael Chui.

Of course, people have been making big projections for the Internet of Things for years, yet progress remains halting and fragmentary. Major technology companies can purposefully make it tougher to interact with

other companies' gadgets for business reasons. More data can mean less privacy.

In recent years, CES has begun catering more heavily to startups hoping to break through the noise. The sprawling show has sections for wearable fitness gadgets, drones, autonomous vehicles, education, virtual reality, video games, robots, 3-D printers and smart homes.

That's largely a reaction to the fact that many of technology's biggest names have been no-shows for some time. Apple Inc. has skipped the show since the 1990s, and Microsoft Corp.'s then-CEO Steve Ballmer gave the company's last CES keynote in 2012. Google parent Alphabet Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. hold their own events to release products.

And the Consumer Technology Association that runs CES is aiming for attendance this year at or below last year's record 176,000.

Shawn DuBravac, the CTA's chief economist, argues the show's maturity is a good thing, its focus transforming over the last two decades from what was "technologically possible" to what's "technologically meaningful." It's no longer about a robot that can walk up steps. It's about robots that actually mow your lawn.

Tougher rules to corral connected devices could mean that people will be less carefree about buying and using them.

Markets

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sell-off was a report that showed that manufacturing in China fell in December for the 10th straight month.

The slowdown is worrisome around the globe because China's manufacturers are huge buyers of raw materi-

als, machinery and energy from other countries. Also, many automakers and consumer goods companies are hoping to sell more to increasingly wealthy Chinese households.

In the U.S., slow overseas growth already appears to be hurting American manufacturers. A report issued Monday by the Institute for Supply Management showed manufacturing contracted last month at the fastest pace in more than six years as factories cut

jobs and new orders shrank.

"Investors in developed countries are beginning to wake up to the risk of slower global growth," said Xavier Smith, an investment director at Centrefunds.

Chinese authorities have been trying for months to restore confidence in the country's market after a plunge in June rattled global markets and prompted a panicked, multibillion-dollar government intervention.

Store

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2011. "The premise behind it is we think there are a lot of things we can learn with direct interaction with the consumer in the direct shopping environment."

The store is attached to the Nautilus Innovation Center, a 28,000-square-foot research and development space that opened in May across the street from the company's main offices on Southeast 177th Avenue.

"We carved out 3,000 square feet to do this consumer lab, the Nautilus Shop," Cazenave said. "(We can) get reactions and integrate that into product design and processes."

Though the immediate area certainly isn't a retail hub, having a sales laboratory next to the company's actual product development laboratory made the location an easy choice.

Cazenave said the company wasn't about to open in downtown Portland, either.

"This is our home, and the community's been great

for us, and very supportive," he said.

Among the events set for Friday's grand opening, Nautilus will be unveiling a few new products that will be up for sale later this month — a higher-end Max Trainer and new "smart" dumbbells from the Select-Tech series.

Cazenave wouldn't divulge the investment his company made in the store, but said: "We're spending what a company would normally spend to open a store. It's not over the top and not on the cheap either."

The Nautilus Shop had a soft opening in December just ahead of Christmas.

Cazenave said it would have been great to open the doors earlier to capture more of the holiday shopping season, but that's just not how things worked out.

"We won't do things here unless we're really ready," he said. "(But) we're really hitting smack in the middle of fitness season, which really starts the beginning of the new year."

So the timing might be just right to capture those New Year's resolvers with a little money and fat to burn.

against it.

At the time of the sale, Lee was CEO and Porth an executive vice president. The two will continue working for Nautilus, Lee as vice president general manager, commercial and specialty, and Porth as vice president product development, commercial and specialty, both reporting directly to Cazenave.

Cazenave said Nautilus had looked at 100 companies to possibly acquire over the past year, noting that Octane's culture was the best fit.

Investors appeared pleased with the acquisition, raising Nautilus' stock price more than 10 percent, from \$16.54 to \$18.48, as of market close Monday.

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VW

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the suspect computer code designed to trick emissions tests. The company has hired a U.S.-based law firm to conduct an internal investigation into the scheme.

The findings of that review have not yet been made public.

The company first acknowledged in September that the cheating software was included in its diesel cars and SUVs sold since the 2009 model year, as well as some recent diesel models sold by the VW-owned Audi and Porsche brands. Worldwide, the company says cheating software was included in more than 11 million vehicles.

The federal lawsuit alleges that Volkswagen in-

tentionally tampered with the vehicles sold in the U.S. to include what regulators call a "defeat device," a mechanism specifically designed to game emissions tests.

Under the law, automakers are required to disclose any such devices to regulators.

Because Volkswagen kept its suspect software secret, the lawsuit alleges the company's cars were sold without a valid "certificate of conformity" issued by EPA to regulate new cars manufactured or imported into the country.

"With today's filing, we take an important step to protect public health by seeking to hold Volkswagen accountable for any unlawful air pollution, setting us on a path to resolution," said Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.


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Goat Mountain Hardrock Prospecting Permit Applications Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (FS) is releasing an environmental assessment (EA) related to two hardrock prospecting permit applications from Ascot USA, Inc. (Ascot) for geotechnical exploration within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the vicinity of Goat Mountain north of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in western Washington. In 2011, Ascot submitted two applications for hardrock prospecting permits for approximately 900 acres in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in northwestern Skamania County, Washington. Since the subject lands were purchased by or donated to the federal government, hardrock minerals are available for prospecting only by permit issued by the BLM with the consent of the FS, which manages the surface and other resources of the lands. The "Goat Mountain Hardrock Prospecting Permit Applications Environmental Assessment" (BLM-ORWA-0000-2016-0001-EA) is a modification of the same assessment originally issued in 2012. Adjustments were made in response to a 2014 ruling by the U.S. District Court in Oregon. The modified EA analyzes a number of additional items, including: consistency with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended, by the Northwest Forest Plan; potential impact on groundwater resources; critical habitat for northern spotted owls; and cultural properties recently identified by the Cowitz Tribe. Based on the modified EA, the FS will determine whether or not to consent to issuance of the prospecting permits along with such terms and conditions needed to protect other resources and to comply with applicable land use plans. If the FS consents, then the BLM will decide whether to issue the prospecting permits based on the modified EA and the FS consent decision. The prospecting permits, if issued, would grant the prospectors the right to prospect on and explore for hardrock mineral deposits during the term of the permits. Any future proposal for leasing and site development would be subject to public notification, separate NEPA analysis and administrative action by the Agencies. This announcement begins a 30-day public comment period for the EA. This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this activity an opportunity to make their concerns known. Those who participate and provide timely comments during the public review or during the original (2012) comment period will be eligible to object to the Forest Service decision pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218 or to appeal the BLM decision pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4. The assessment, associated information, and guidance on how to comment are available at: <http://blm.gov/programs/minerals/prospecting>. **BLM National ePlanning Register:** <http://f1.usa.gov/1Np1e1> **US Forest Service:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/2016/09/05/2016-09-05> Issues raised in objection must be based on previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed project or activity unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities to comment. Comments received during this public review of the EA period will be considered, and a revised (if necessary) EA and draft of the Forest Service Decision Notice will be released for a 45-day review and objection period. **How to Comment and Timeframe:** Written and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the date of publication of this notice in The Chronicle, Centralia, WA and The Columbian, Vancouver, WA. The publication date in the newspapers of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 218.25(v) prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Comments can be submitted to either: **Email:** BLM_OR_Prospecting_EA@blm.gov (An underscores must be placed in each blank space) **Postal:** U.S. Bureau of Land Management Oregon/Washington State Office Attn: Goat Mtn. Project (OR-936.2) P.O. Box 2965 Portland, Oregon 97208-2965 In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for calculating the comment period and ensure that their comments have been received. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218. Jan. 5 551508


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